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Message Text

SECRET

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17
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /078 W
---------- 069237
P 240235Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4002
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY
COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY
COMIPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

S E C R E T SAIGON 3335

NOFORN

FOLLOWING DA NANG TEL SENT 23 MAR ACTION AE SAIGON; INFO DAO SGN
BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

SECRET DANANG 0285

NOFORN

EMBASSY FOR POL/MIL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, VS
SUBJ: MILITARY SITREP - MARCH 23

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE ABF'S WERE REPORTED AGAINST VARIOUS ARVN UNITS, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MARINE BRIGADE, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 1ST DIVISION, HUE CITY, AND ON TAN MY, WHERE REFUGEES ARE ATTEMPTING TO EMBARK FOR DANANG. IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN, Q.L. 1 HAS BEEN CUT BY THE NVA/VC IN EASTERN PHU LOC DISTRICT, AND NEARBY THUA LUU BRIDGE WAS DAMAGED BY A SAPPER ATTACK. IN WESTERN QUANG NAM, MARINE
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ELEMENTS REPORTED LIGHT ABF'S AND ONE GROUND CONTACT IN DAI LOC

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DISTRICT. IN SOUTHERN QUANG NAM AND NORTHERN QUANG TIN PROVINCES, ATTACKS AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES AND SUB-SUBSECTORS CONTINUED, AND SEVERAL SMALL GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED. IN QUANG NGAI, ABF'S AND LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY, AND IN BINH SON, MO DUC, AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES NOW IN DANANG RANGE FROM 300,000 TO 400,000; A LOCAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THE REFUGEE SITUATION. END SUMMARY

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ABF'S INCREASED, MAINLY IN THE VICINITY OF HUE CITY AND SOUTHEAST OF HUE IN HOA NAM AND PHU LOC DISTRICTS OF THUA THIEN (P). ON MARCH 22, HUE CITADEL RECEIVED SHELLING WITH SEVEN UNKNOWN TYPE RDS. TAN MY VITAL POINT NORTHEAST OF HUE RECEIVED 20 RDS OF UNIDENTIFIED TYPE WHICH KILLED SEVEN CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED TWO. AT 1315 HOURS, MARCH 22, HWY 1 WAS INTERDICTED BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE NVA/VC FORCE AT ZC020026, IN PHU LOC (D), THUA THIEN (P). AS OF 1200 HOURS, MARCH 23, THE 8TH MARINE BN AND 94TH RANGER BN ARE STILL FIGHTING TO RECAPTURE THIS PORTION OF THE ROAD. EVACUEES BETWEEN THIS POINT AND HUE HAVE BEEN TURNED AROUND AND SENT BACK TO HUE FOR POSSIBLE MOVEMENT BY BOAT FROM TAN MY TO DANANG. AT 0400 HOURS, MARCH 23, NVA/VC BLEW UP THE GUARDED THUA LUU BRIDGE AT ZD198010, PHU LOC (D), THUA THIEN (P), CAUSING 50 PERCENT DAMAGE. DUE TO ABFS AND SNIPER FIRE, REPAIRS ARE BEING DELAYED UNTIL CLEARING ACTIONS CAN BE COMPLETED. EVACUEES FROM THIS PORTION OF THE ROAD ARE BEING ROUTED TO BEACHES WHERE AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO PLACE THEM ON BOATS FOR DANANG. ON MARCH 22, A PF PLATOON WITHDREW FROM THE GO HAI RESETTLEMENT CENTER, ZD185044, PHU LOC (732) 1 5#7-583 2710), WHEN THREATENED BY A LARGER UNIDENTIFIED NVA/VC FORCE. NO REPORT IS AVILABLE OF THE FINAL RESULTS. THERE WERE OTHER SCATTERED ABFS AND GROUND ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THUA THIEN (P); BUT NONE OF SIGNIFICANCE. I CORPS HQS IS UNABLE TO ESTIMATE WHEN HWY 1 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WILL BE OPEN. I CORPS G-3 HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT AT 1130 HOURS MARCH 23, 10 NVA TANKS WERE SIGHTED IN THE VICINITY OF YD910029 AND YD920024 IN NAM HOW (D), THUA THIEN PROVINCE; TWO TANKS WERE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY ARTILLERY, BUT THE REMAINING TANKS ARE STILL IN THE AREA.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

MODERATE FIGHTING WAS REPORTED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN

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SOUTHEASTERN QUANG NAM (P) AND NORTHEASTERN QUANG TIN (P). IN QUANG NAM (P), MARINE UNITS IN DAI LOC (D) HAD CONTACT AND EXPERIENCED LIGHT MORTAR ABFS. TERRITORIAL FORCES IN QUE SON AND DUY XUYEN DISTRICTS WERE SUBJECTED TO PROBING ACTIONS AND LIGHT MORTAR ATTACKS; NONE SIGNIFICANT.

IN QUANG TIN (P), FIGHTING WAS CENTERED PRIMARILY IN THANG BINH (D). AT 1400 HRS, MARCH 22, BINH DUONG BT210505 AND BINH LAM BT222491 SUB-SUBSECTORS WERE SUBJECTED TO ABFS AND GROUND ATTACKS,

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RESULTING IN RADIO CONTACT BEING LOST. FINAL RESULTS STILL UNKNOWN.
THE REMAINDER OF THE ACTION IN THANG BINH (D) INVOLVED MOSTLY
GROUND ATTACKS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH ARE STILL REPORTED AS UNKNOWN.
NVA/VC SHELLED 2 RDS 122MM ROCKETS INTO A POPULATED AREA SE OF
TAM KY CITY WOUNDING A CHILD. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING
IN THE AREA SOUTH OR WEST OF TAM KY CITY.

IN QUANG NGAI (P), THERE WERE LIGHT ABFS, SNIPER FIRE, AND
TWO GROUND CONTACTS REPORTED; ALL BUT ONE AGAINST RF AND PF UNITS
IN BINH SON, MO DUC, AND DUC PHO DISTRICT.

4. REFUGEES: ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN DANANG AT
THE PRESENT TIME RANGE BETWEEN 300,000 AND 400,000. ACCORDING TO
DANANG MAYOR COLONEL DAO TRONG TUONG, APPROXIMATELY 100,000
REFUGEES ARE NOW SLEEPING ON THE SIDEWALKS, AND HE HAS RECOMMENDED
THAT THEY BE TEMPORARILY MOVED TO OPEN AREAS ADJACENT TO DANANG AND
THEN SENT SOUTH AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHAN QUANG DAN VISITED DANANG MARCH 22
WITH A DELEGATION (INCLUDING USAID AND UN OFFICIALS) TO DISCUSS THE
REFUGEE SITUATION HERE. DR. DAN ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
LOCAL COMMITTEE, HEADED BY QUANG DA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACTING
RECTOR NGO DONG TO DEAL WITH THE REFUGEE FLOW INTO DANANG.
FRANCIS
LEHMANN

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